

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 51-53, 55 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Marwell. In response, applicants have amended claims 1 and 51. Applicants have also amended claims 9, 10, 56 and 57 to properly reference amended claims 1 and 51.

The claimed invention, represented by claims 1 and 51, is directed to a technique for providing information assistance, e.g., by searching databases for requested information. The invention overcomes the prior art limitations by generating dynamic information in processing information assistance calls to improve and/or supplement the traditional databases. Such dynamic information may result from analyzing the data associated with processing of the calls in accordance with the invention. For example, the dynamic information may include statistics as to the relative frequencies of accessing information concerning particular movies, which are indicative of the popularity of such movies. In addition, the statistics may be generated as a function of time, e.g., the time range within which the movie searches are conducted, and/or the geographic area, e.g., the area in which the inquired movie theaters are located. Such statistics may be frequently updated to provide timely information for responses to such inquiries as “What movies seem to be popular tonight;” “What restaurants do New Yorkers frequent these days;” etc. *See* page 5, line 16 *et seq.* of the specification.

Marwell discloses a directory assistance technique. In rejecting claims 1 and 51, the Examiner reads the term “data” in those claims on an “automatic number identification (ANI) data string” in Marwell, and “derived information” on an “identification of the personal contact list associated with the caller’s telephone ID” in Marwell. Office Action at p. 3. However, applicants have amended claims 1 and 51 to require the derived information therein to be “statistical information,” which requirement is not satisfied by the “identification of the personal contact list ...” in Marwell. *A fortiori*, Marwell fails to teach or suggest use of the statistical information “for

responding to information requests in future communication calls,” as amended claims 1 and 51 also recite. As such, amended claims 1 and 51 are not anticipated by Marwell. Nor are they obvious from reading Marwell. As such, amended claims 1 and 51, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Marwell.

The Examiner also rejected claims 15-18, and 62-65 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by O’Neal. In response, applicants have amended claims 15 and 62.

Claims 15 and 62 are directed to an aspect of the invention, where data is generated when assisted communication connections are established for a user through the information assistance service. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, based on the data a subset of the communication connections is tracked, e.g., the last X connections or the Y most popular connections made by the user, where X and Y are predetermined numbers. Information concerning the subset of the communication connections is provided to the user at a predetermined data location, e.g., a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL) on the Internet, which is accessible to the user. *See* page 25, line 13 *et seq.* of the specification.

O’Neal discloses a billing control system whereby a telecommunications service provider can monitor service charges incurred in individual accounts. For example, when service charges in an account exceed a charge credit limit, the O’Neal system controls access to the telecommunications services for the corresponding account. However, nowhere does O’Neal teach or suggest “tracking for [a] user a subset of the communications connections” established for the user, where “the number of communications connections in the subset [is] predetermined,” as amended claims 15 and 62 now recite. By contrast, the O’Neal system at best monitors a user’s account for service charges incurred by the user for establishment of communication connections whose quantity cannot be predetermined.

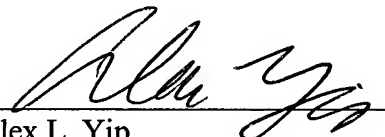
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In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Marwell in view of Zamora-Mckelvy, claims 11-13 and 58-60 over Marwell in view of Golding, and claims 19-28 and 66-74 over O'Neal in view of Marwell. In any event, these claims are patentable over the cited art by virtue of their dependency from amended claims 1, 15, 51 and 62, which are patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 29-50 and 75-92, which are to be prosecuted in the future.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 1-28 and 51-74, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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